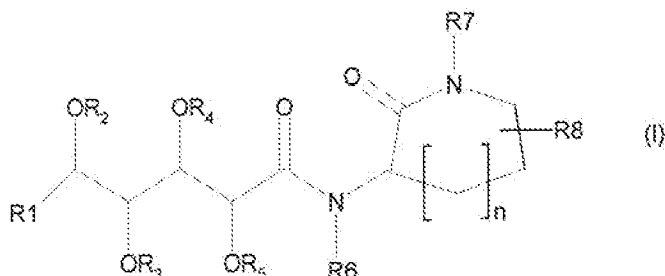


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R1 is H, X₁-(C₁₋₆) alkyl-, (C₁₋₁₂)alkylC(O)-, X₂-(C₂₋₄) alkenylene-, X₂-(C₂₋₄) alkynylene-, X₁-(C₃₋₉)cycloalkyl-, X₂-(C₃₋₉)cycloalkene-, X₁-aryl-, X₁-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkane-(C₁₋₆)alkylene-, X₂-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkene-(C₁₋₆)alkylene-, or X₁-aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkylene-;

X₁ is H, (C₁₋₁₄)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₁₋₁₄)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo or (C₁₋₆)alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl-, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo, (C₁₋₁₂)alkyl-C(O)-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl-, or mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl;

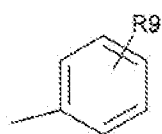
X₂ is H, (C₁₋₁₄)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₁₋₁₄)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo or (C₁₋₆)alkyl-C(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl-, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl- or mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl;

R_a is H, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl, aryl, or (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, aryl, -OH, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl or halo;

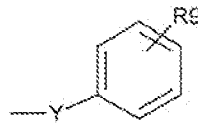
R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ are independently hydrogen or (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl, R₅ is also phenyl or (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in the combined R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ alkyl substituents, or R₂ and R₄ together or R₃ and R₅ together form an acetal group;

R₆ is hydrogen or (C₁₋₆) alkyl;

R₇ is H, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_x, N₃, halo, -N(R_x)₂, R_x, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or pyridyl; -Y-R₆ or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa



IIa



IIIa

wherein

R₉ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo, -N₃,

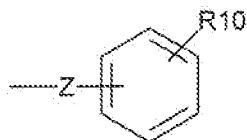
(C₁₋₁₂)alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, (CH₂)₀₋₂-heterocyclic, (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₆₋₇aryl, or (CH₂)₀₋₂-heteroaryl;

Y is a linking group selected from -(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-N(R_x)-CO-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-O-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-O-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-O-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-O-CO-(R_x)N-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene- or -(C₀₋₁₈)alkylene-arylene-(C₀₋₁₈)alkylene-;

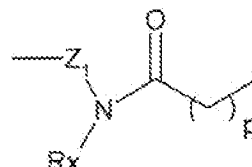
R_x is H, (C₁₋₄)alkyl or phenyl;

R_b is (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl which is substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_x, N₃, halo, -N(R_x)₂, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or pyridyl;

R₈ is H, halo, -N₃, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, -N(R_x)₂, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, -N(R_x)₂, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -O(C₁₋₁₆)alkylene-N₃, -O(C₁₋₁₆)alkylene-N(R_x)₂, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-OC(O)-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl, -O-CO-X-R_z, or -O-CO-(CH₂)_m-O-(CH₂)_m-X-R_z wherein X is a direct bond, (C₁₋₁₂)alkylene, (C₁₋₁₂)alkenylene or (C₁₋₁₂)alkynylene and R_z is H, (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₁₆)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, -OR_a, -SR_a, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -Z-Si((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₃ or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



and



Z is a direct bond, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-, -O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-N(R_x)-, -N(R_x)-, -N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-

CO-N(R_x)-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-CO-O-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-C(O)-, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-CO-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-O-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-CO-O-, -O-CO-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene- or -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-;

Z₁ is a direct bond, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -O-CO-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene- or -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-;

R₁₀ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C₁₋₇)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₇)alkyl, -(CH₂)₁₋₆-C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)₀₋₁₀-aryl or -(CH₂)₀₋₁₀-het;

het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

p is 1-18;

with the proviso that when n is 2 and R₁ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl-CH=CH- or (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl-CH=CH- then R₇ is not H or (C₁₋₈)alkyl or R₈ is not -O-CO-X-R₂ or -O-CO-(CH₂)_m-O-(CH₂)_m-X-R₂ where X is a direct bond, (C₁₋₁₂)alkylene, (C₁₋₁₂)alkenylene or (C₁₋₁₂)alkynylene and R₂ is H, (C₃₋₉)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl or (C₁₋₁₈)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and with the further proviso that R₈ is not -OH when n is 2, R₇ is H or methyl and R₁ is 3-methylbut-1-enylene.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

n is 2;

R₁ is X₁-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, X₂-(C₂₋₄)alkenylene-, X₁-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-, or X₁-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkane-(C₁₋₃)alkylene-;

X₁ is H, (C₁₋₁₂)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo or (C₁₋₁₂)alkylC(O)-, aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl- or -OR_a;

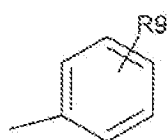
X₂ is H, (C₁₋₁₂)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo or (C₁₋₁₂)alkylC(O)-, aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl-;

R_a is H, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl, aryl-, or (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl or aryl;

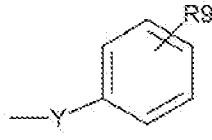
R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ are independently hydrogen or (C₁₋₄)alkyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 8 carbon atoms, especially no more than 4 carbon atoms, in the combined R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ alkyl substituents;

R₆ is hydrogen or (C₁₋₆) alkyl;

R₇ is H, (C₁₋₈)alkyl, R_x, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_x, N₃, halo, -N(R_x)₂, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or pyridyl; or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa



IIa



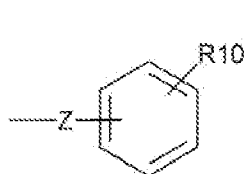
IIIa

R₉ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo, or -N₃;

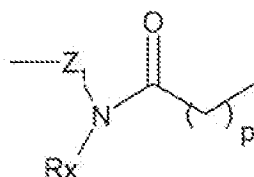
Y is a linking group selected from -C(O)N(R_x)-, -CO-O-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-CO-O-, -CO-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-O-(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-O-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-, -CO-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-CO-, -CO-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-, -(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-O-(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-, or -(C₀₋₁₂)alkylene-arylene-(C₀₋₁₂)alkylene-;

R_x is H, (C₁₋₄)alkyl or phenyl;

R₈ is -N₃, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, or -N(R_x)₂; -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted in the alkyl portion by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, or -N(R_x)₂; -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



or



Z is a direct bond, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-, -C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -CO-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene- or -O-CO-N(R_x)-;

Z₁ is a direct bond, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene- or -C(O)-;

R₁₀ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C₁₋₁₇)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₁₇)alkyl,

-(CH₂)₁₋₆-C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)₀₋₁₀-aryl or -(CH₂)₀₋₁₀-het; and

het is pyridyl.

3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R₁ is (C₁₋₆ alkyl)-ethenyiene;

R₂, R₃ and R₄, independently are hydrogen or (C₁₋₄) alkyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 4 carbon atoms in the combined R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ alkyl substituents;

R₅ is (C₁₋₄)alkyl;

R₆ is hydrogen or methyl;

R₇ is H or (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R₈ is H, -N₃, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, or -N(R_x)₂; or -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted in the alkyl portion by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, or -N(R_x)₂;

R₉ is (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₅₋₇ cycloalkyl, (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₅₋₇ hetero-cyclic, (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₅₋₇ aryl, or (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₅₋₇ hetero-aryl;

X is (C₁₋₁₂) alkylene or (C₂₋₁₂) alkenylene;

R₁₀ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -(CH₂)₁₋₆-C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)₀₋₁₀-aryl or -(CH₂)₀₋₁₀-het;

het is pyridyl;

n is 2.

4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R₁ is -CH=CH-*i*-propyl or -CH=CH-*t*-butyl;

X₂ is H;

R₂, R₃, R₄, and R₅ independently are hydrogen or methyl;

R₆ is hydrogen;

R₇ is H or (C₁₋₃) alkyl; and

n is 2.

5. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt thereof, wherein:

R₁ is X₁-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkane-(C₁₋₆)alkylene- or X₂-(C₃₋₉)cycloalkene;

X₁ is hydrogen;

X₂ is hydrogen;

R₂, R₃, R₄, and R₅ independently are hydrogen or methyl;

R₆ is hydrogen;

R₇ is H or (C₁₋₃) alkyl;

R₈ is hydrogen; and

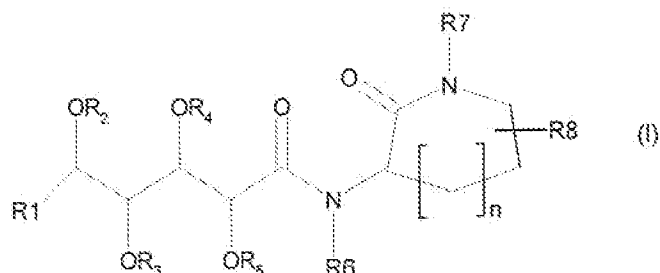
n is 2.

6. (Previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A process to prepare the compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R1 is H, X₁-(C₁₋₆) alkyl-, (C₁₋₁₂)alkylC(O)-, X₂-(C₂₋₄) alkenylene-, X₂-(C₂₋₄) alkynylene-, X₁-(C₃₋₉)cycloalkyl-, X₂-(C₃₋₉)cycloalkene-, X₁-aryl-, X₁-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkane-(C₁₋₆)alkylene-, X₂-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkene-(C₁₋₆)alkylene-, or X₁-aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkylene-;

X₁ is H, (C₁₋₁₄)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₁₋₁₄)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo or (C₁₋₆)alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl-, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo, (C₁₋₁₂)alkyl-C(O)-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl-, or mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl;

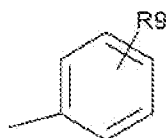
X₂ is H, (C₁₋₁₄)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₁₋₁₄)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo or (C₁₋₆)alkyl-C(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl-, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl- or mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl;

R_a is H, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl, aryl, or (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, aryl, -OH, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl or halo;

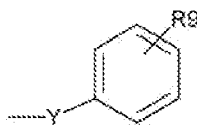
R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ are independently hydrogen or (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl, R₅ is also phenyl or (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in the combined R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ alkyl substituents, or R₂ and R₄ together or R₃ and R₅ together form an acetal group;

R₆ is hydrogen or (C₁₋₆) alkyl;

R₇ is H, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_x, N₃, halo, -N(R_x)₂, R_x, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or pyridyl; -Y-R_b or a substituent of formula IIa or IIIa



IIa



IIIa

wherein

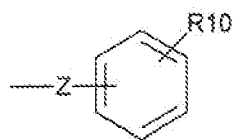
R₉ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo, -N₃, (C₁₋₁₂)alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₅₋₇cycloalkyl, (CH₂)₀₋₂-heterocyclic, (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₅₋₇aryl, or (CH₂)₀₋₂-heteroaryl;

Y is a linking group selected from -(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-N(R_x)-CO-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-O-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-O-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-O-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-O-CO-(R_x)N-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene- or -(C₀₋₁₈)alkylene-arylene-(C₀₋₁₆)alkylene-;

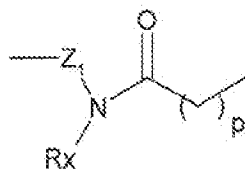
R_x is H, (C₁₋₄)alkyl or phenyl;

R_b is (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl which is substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_a, N₃, halo, -N(R_x)₂, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or pyridyl;

R₈ is H, halo, -N₃, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, -N(R_x)₂, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, -N(R_x)₂, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -O(C₁₋₁₆)alkylene-N₃, -O(C₁₋₁₆)alkylene-N(R_x)₂, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-OC(O)-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl, -O-CO-X-R_z, or -O-CO-(CH₂)_m-O-(CH₂)_m-X-R_z wherein X is a direct bond, (C₁₋₁₂)alkylene, (C₁₋₁₂)alkenylene or (C₁₋₁₂)alkynylene and R_z is H, (C₃₋₉)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₁₆)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, -OR_a, -SR_a, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -Z-Si((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₃ or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



and



Z is a direct bond, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-O}$, $-O-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-N}(R_x)$, $-N(R_x)$, $-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-N(R_x)-C(O)$, $-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-N}(R_x)-C(O)$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-N}(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-CO-N}(R_x)$, $-\text{CO-N}(R_x)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-CO-N}(R_x)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-\text{CO-N}(R_x)$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-CO-O}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-O-C(O)}$, $-\text{OC(O)}-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-CO}$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-CO-(C}_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-\text{CO-(C}_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-C(O)$, $-N(R_x)-C(O)-O$, $-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-N}(R_x)-C(O)-O$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-N}(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-O-CO-N}(R_x)$, $-O-\text{CO-N}(R_x)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-O-CO-N}(R_x)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-O-\text{CO-N}(R_x)$, $-O-\text{CO-O}$, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene-O-CO-O}$, $-O-\text{CO-O-(C}_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$ or $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C}_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$;

Z₁ is a direct bond, $-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-O-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-N(R_x)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-N}(R_x)-C(O)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-\text{CO-N}(R_x)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-CO-N}(R_x)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-\text{OC(O)}-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-CO-(C}_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-\text{CO-(C}_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-C(O)$, $-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-N}(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-O-\text{CO-N}(R_x)-(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-O-CO-N}(R_x)-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$, $-O-\text{CO-O-(C}_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$ or $-(C_{1-8})\text{alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C}_{1-8})\text{alkylene}$;

R₁₀ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, $-(C_{1-17})\text{alkyl}$, $-O-(C_{1-17})\text{alkyl}$, $-(CH_2)_{1-6}-C_{3-7}$ -cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_{5-10}$ -aryl or $-(CH_2)_{5-10}$ -het;

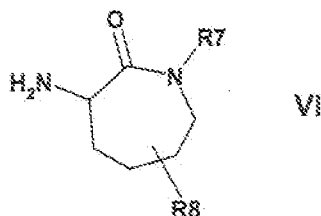
het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

p is 1-18;

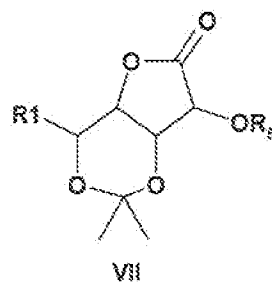
with the proviso that when n is 2 and R₁ is $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl-CH=CH-}$ or $(C_{3-6})\text{cycloalkyl-CH=CH-}$ then R₇ is not H or $(C_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$ or R₈ is not $-\text{O-CO-X-R}_2$ or $-\text{O-CO-(CH}_2)_m\text{-O-(CH}_2)_m\text{-X-R}_2$ where X is a direct bond, $(C_{1-12})\text{alkylene}$, $(C_{1-12})\text{alkenylene}$ or $(C_{1-12})\text{alkynylene}$ and R₂ is H, $(C_{3-9})\text{cycloalkyl}$, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, $(C_{1-18})\text{alkyl}$ or $(C_{1-18})\text{alkoxy}$, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and with the further proviso that R₉ is not $-\text{OH}$ when n is 2, R₇ is H or methyl and R₁ is 3-methylbut-1-enylene;

comprising the following steps:

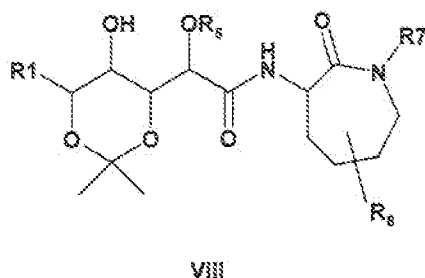
(a) reacting the compound of formula VI or an acid addition salt thereof



wherein R₇ and R₈ are defined above, with the compound of formula VII



wherein R₁ and R₅ are defined above, to form a compound of formula VIII

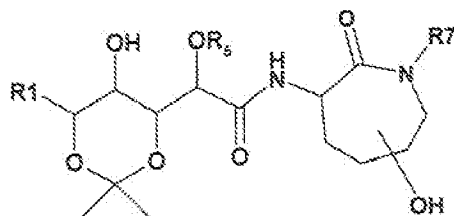


; and

(b) hydrolyzing the compound of formula VIII.

11. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein step (a) is conducted in a polar organic solvent or in the presence of a weak base and a polar organic solvent.

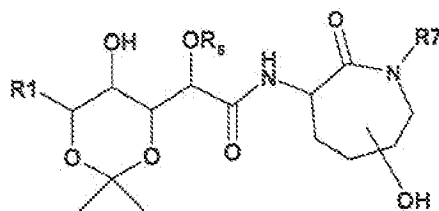
12. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compound of VIII is prepared by reacting the compound of XI



wherein R₁, R₅ and R₇ are defined in claim 10, with an acid chloride in the presence of a base and a solvent

13. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the acid chloride is of the formula R₁₂COCl, wherein R₁₂ is an appropriate substituent based on the definition of R₆; the base is triethylamine and the solvent is dichloromethane.

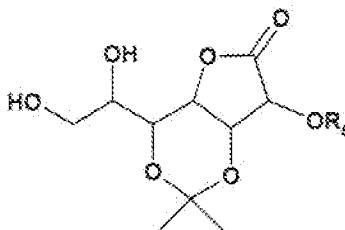
14. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compound of VIII is prepared by reacting the compound of XI



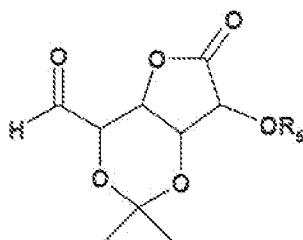
wherein R_1 , R_5 and R_7 are defined in claim 11, with a carboxylic acid in the presence of a carboxylic acid coupling agent and an activating agent.

15. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the carboxylic acid is of the formula $R_{12}COOH$ wherein R_{12} is an appropriate substituent based on the definition of R_8 ; the carboxylic acid coupling reagent is 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride and the activating agent is 4-dimethylaminopyridine.

16. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the compound of formula VII is prepared by cleaving the compound of formula XXXIII



wherein R_5 is defined in claim 10, to obtain the compound XXXIV



; and

reacting the compound of XXXIV with an organometallic compound in the presence of a solvent mixture.

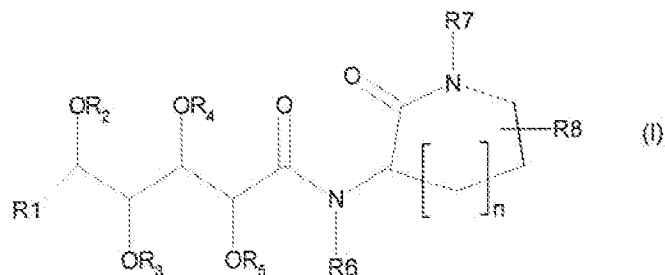
17. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein cleaving the compound of formula XXXIII is carried out in the presence of a periodate salt in a solvent.

18. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the periodate salt is sodium periodate and the solvent is methanol.

19. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the organometallic compound is an organochromium compound, and the solvent mixture comprises of a polar organic solvent and an inert organic solvent.

20. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the polar organic solvent is N,N-dimethylformamide and the inert organic solvent is tetrahydrofuran.

21. (Original) A process to prepare the compound of the formula I:



or a salt thereof, wherein

n is 0, 1 or 2;

R1 is H, X1-(C1-6) alkyl-, (C1-12)alkylC(O)-, X2-(C2-4) alkenylene-, X2-(C2-4) alkynylene-,

X1-(C3-9)cycloalkyl-, X2-(C3-9)cycloalkene-, X1-aryl-, X1-(C3-7)cycloalkane-(C1-6)alkylene-,
 X2-(C3-7)cycloalkene-(C1-6)alkylene-, or X1-aryl-(C1-6)alkylene-;

X1 is H, (C1-14)alkyl, (C3-7)cycloalkyl, (C1-14)alkyl substituted by (C3-7)cycloalkyl, -ORa, -SRa,
 -NO2, halo or (C1-6)alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C1-12)alkyl-, -ORa, -SRa, -NO2, halo, (C1-12)alkyl-
 C(O)-, mono- or di-(C1-4)alkylamino, amino(C1-16)alkyl-, or mono- or di-(C1-4)alkylamino(C1-
 16)alkyl;

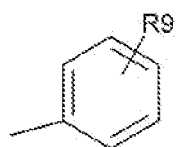
X2 is H, (C1-14)alkyl, (C3-7)cycloalkyl, (C1-14)alkyl substituted by (C3-7)cycloalkyl, -ORa, -SRa,
 -NO2, halo or (C1-6)alkylC(O)-; aryl, aryl-(C1-12)alkyl-, amino(C1-16)alkyl- or mono- or
 di-(C1-4)alkylamino(C1-16)alkyl;

Ra is H, (C1-18)alkyl, aryl, or (C1-18)alkyl substituted by (C3-7)cycloalkyl, aryl, -OH, -O-(C1-6)alkyl or
 halo;

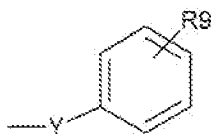
R2, R3, R4 and R5 are independently hydrogen or (C1-18)alkyl, R5 is also phenyl or (C1-18)alkyl
 which is substituted by phenyl, wherein there is no more than a total of 18 carbon atoms in
 the combined R2, R3, R4 and R5 alkyl substituents, or R2 and R4 together or R3 and R5
 together form an acetal group;

R6 is hydrogen or (C1-6) alkyl;

R7 is H, (C1-18)alkyl, phenyl, pyridyl, (C1-18)alkyl substituted by (C3-7)cycloalkyl, -ORx, N3, halo,
 -N(Rx)2, Rx, -O-(C1-6)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C1-16)alkyl or pyridyl; -Y-Rb or a substituent of formula
 IIa or IIIa



IIa



IIIa

wherein

R₉ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OR_a, -SR_a, -NO₂, halo, -N₃,

(C₁₋₁₂)alkylC(O)-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₅₋₇cycloalkyl, (CH₂)₀₋₂-heterocyclic, (CH₂)₀₋₂-C₅₋₇aryl, or (CH₂)₀₋₂-heteroaryl;

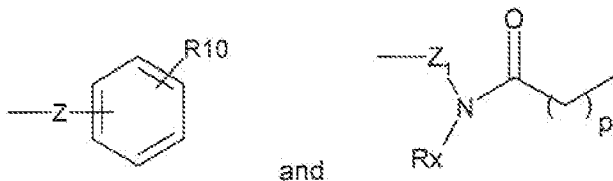
Y is a linking group selected from -(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-N(R_x)-CO-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-O-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-O-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-CO-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-(R_x)N-CO-O-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-, -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-O-CO-(R_x)N-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene- or -(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-arylene-(C₀₋₁₀)alkylene-;

R_x is H, (C₁₋₄)alkyl or phenyl;

R_b is (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl which is substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -OR_x, N₃, halo,

-N(R_x)₂, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or pyridyl;

R₈ is H, halo, -N₃, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, -N(R_x)₂, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -Z-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl substituted by (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -N₃, -N(R_x)₂, -Z-het, -OR_a or -SR_a, -O(C₁₋₁₆)alkylene-N₃, -O(C₁₋₁₆)alkylene-N(R_x)₂, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-OC(O)-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, -(C₀₋₆)alkylene-(O)C-O-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, pyridyl, -OC(O)O(C₁₋₁₂)alkyl, -O-CO-X-R₂, or -O-CO-(CH₂)_m-O-(CH₂)_m-X-R₂ wherein X is a direct bond, (C₁₋₁₂)alkylene, (C₁₋₁₂)alkenylene or (C₁₋₁₂)alkynylene and R₂ is H, (C₃₋₉)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C₁₋₁₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₁₆)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, -Z-het, -OR_a, -SR_a, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino, amino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl-, mono- or di-(C₁₋₄)alkylamino(C₁₋₁₆)alkyl, -Z-Si((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₃ or a substituent selected from the following two formulae:



Z is a direct bond, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-, -O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-N(R_x)-, -N(R_x)-, -N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-

CO-N(R_x)-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-CO-O-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-C(O)-, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-CO-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-, -O-CO-O-, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-O-CO-O-, -O-CO-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene- or -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-;

Z₁ is a direct bond, -(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -OC(O)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-CO-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -CO-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -C(O)-, -N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-N(R_x)-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene-, -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-CO-N(R_x)-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-, -O-CO-O-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylene- or -(C₁₋₈)alkylene-O-C(O)-O-(C₁₋₈)alkylene-;

R₁₀ is from 0 to 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, halo, -(C₁₋₁₇)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₁₇)alkyl, -(CH₂)₁₋₆-C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, -(CH₂)₀₋₁₀-aryl or -(CH₂)₀₋₁₀-het;

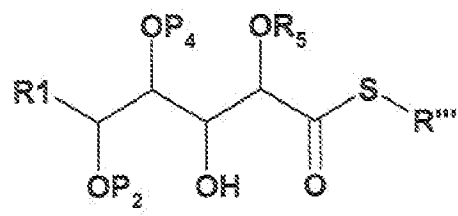
het is a heterocyclic or heteroaromatic ring;

p is 1-18;

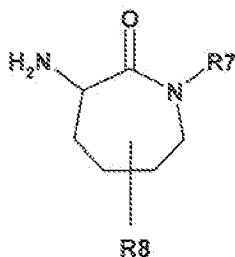
with the proviso that when n is 2 and R₁ is (C₁₋₈)alkyl-CH=CH- or (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl-CH=CH- then R₇ is not H or (C₁₋₈)alkyl or R₈ is not -O-CO-X-R₂ or -O-CO-(CH₂)_m-O-(CH₂)_m-X-R₂ where X is a direct bond, (C₁₋₁₂)alkylene, (C₁₋₁₂)alkenylene or (C₁₋₁₂)alkynylene and R₂ is H, (C₃₋₉)cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl substituted by one or more of chloro, methoxy, (C₁₋₁₈)alkyl or (C₁₋₁₈)alkoxy, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiofuranyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiofuranyl or pyridyl and each m is independently a number from 0 to 13, and with the further proviso that R₈ is not -OH when n is 2, R₇ is H or methyl and R₁ is 3-methylbut-1-enylene;

comprising the following steps:

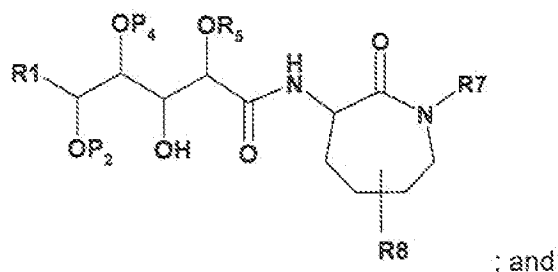
(a) reacting a compound of formula XLI



wherein R₁ and R₅ are defined above, P₂ and P₄ are protective groups, and R''' is a (C₁₋₈)alkyl, with the compound of formula VI



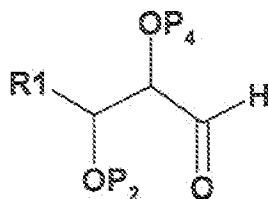
wherein R₇ and R₈ are defined above, to form the compound of formula XLII



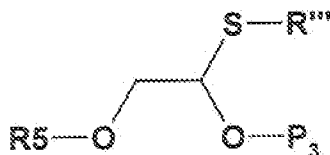
(b) deprotecting the compound of formula XLII.

22. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein R''' is ethyl, P₂ is *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl, and P₄ is selected from benzyl or naphthylmethyl ethers.

23. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the compound of formula XLI is prepared by reacting the compound of formula XL



wherein R₁, P₂ and P₄ are defined in claim 21 with a compound having the following formula



wherein R₅ and R''' are defined in claim 21 and P₃ is a protective group.

24. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 23, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of a Lewis acid and a solvent.

25. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the Lewis acid is SnCl₄ and the solvent is a mixture of CH₂Cl₂ and heptane.